

to prevent future attacks with stronger intelligence assessments.

I strongly believe this bill will complement and enhance the recently announced Department of Justice strategy to combat the domestic terror and domestic violent extremism threats, so I urge all my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on June 15, 2022, I voted against bills En Bloc. Had H.R. 610, H.R. 293, H.R. 587, H.R. 1144, H.R. 1921, H.R. 2008, H.R. 2332, H.R. 2545, and H.R. 3642 each received a standalone vote, I would have voted in support of each bill. I opposed the En Bloc because I oppose H.R. 1703.

### RETIREMENT OF JORDAN BARAB FROM THE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Jordan Barab who served as the senior health and safety advisor to the Education & Labor Committee after serving in senior positions in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in two different Administrations. When Jordan announced his retirement from the Committee, Members of the Committee expressed deep appreciation for the expertise he imparted to the U.S. House of Representatives, especially when we were confronted with the spread of COVID-19.

Jordan's experience working to enhance protections for healthcare workers during the H1N1 flu epidemic—when he led the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health during the Obama Administration—informed his counsel to the Committee and Congress to have OSHA develop an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. That expertise was also helpful to the Commonwealth of Virginia which became the first state to develop its own emergency temporary standard to protect workers from COVID-19. As a result, other states had a model with which to follow suit.

Jordan also worked with Representative JOE COURTNEY (CT) to advance legislation requiring health care and social service employers to implement plans to prevent workplace violence in the House-passed bipartisan Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195). He made sure that public employees in states without OSHA protections received workplace violence protections through Medicare. He also worked with Representative JUDY CHU (CA) on legislation to provide OSHA protections for workers from heat stress.

Over the decades, Jordan has been at the forefront of our nation's efforts to make sure workers come home safely from their job every day. He was a key leader in efforts to seek stronger worker protections regarding bloodborne pathogens, tuberculosis, and ergonomic hazards. Jordan also worked for five years to develop safety recommendations to prevent catastrophic chemical accidents at the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board (CSB), as well as nearly two decades as Assistant Director of Research for Health and Safety with the American Federation of State Municipal and County Employees (AFSCME).

In his earlier work with the Committee, under the leadership of Chairman George Miller (CA), Jordan focused on legislation to prevent combustible dust fires and explosions—an issue brought into sharp focus following the 2008 dust explosion which killed 14 and left over 40 injured at a sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Jordan was the lead staffer into the investigations and legislation to prevent the obliteration of workers' lungs from the inhalation of a flavoring chemical used in popcorn called diacetyl. Jordan also examined the underreporting of injuries and illnesses, a practice that undermines effective workplace safety.

Jordan's dedication to the safety of workers has spanned across the Committee, OSHA, CSB, AFSCME and the labor movement. There is no question that there are many workers who avoided injury or illness because of workplace safety improvements that came about because of Jordan's work. He remains a trusted advisor—and may not easily escape our inquiries when we have questions.

On behalf of workers, their families, and the people of the country, I thank Jordan Barab for his service to the public and lasting contribution to workplace safety.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF HENRY RANDLE

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Henry Randle who recently lost his battle with cancer. He was a brave and selfless community servant and I join countless Mississippians in mourning his loss.

Henry Randle was a graduate of Aberdeen High School class of 1989. He attended Mary Holmes College, Mississippi State University, and the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy. In 2001, he joined the Mississippi National Guard.

Mr. Randle began his military career as an Army Motor Transport Operator. In 2009, he earned a second occupation as a Petroleum Supply Specialist and has served in a variety of leadership positions in Engineer and a Maneuver Unit. Over the course of his career, he has served in the Mississippi National Guard's 223rd Engineering Battalion, served in the Middle East—most recently in 2018 as an E6 staff sergeant. He aided in hurricane Katrina recovery.

Among Mr. Randle's awards include a Armed Forces Reserves Medal with M Device,

Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Overseas TRG Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal. He joined the Aberdeen Police Department in 1997 and served as a school resource officer. In April of 2008, Mr. Randle was elected as Aberdeen Police Chief.

It was an honor to work with Henry in the Mississippi Guard as well as in law enforcement. Henry Randle was an outstanding community leader who served his state and country well. I am grateful for his life of service to the Aberdeen community and offer my deepest condolences and most sincere prayers for all who know and love him.

### JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the importance of celebrating Juneteenth as a national holiday.

For a century after the last slaves were freed, Black Americans were denied the rights considered "unalienable" by the Constitution. Even after July 4, 1776, millions of enslaved people and their descendants would not experience independence for decades. Over the last 50 years, systemic racism has continued to hinder many who strive to live out the American Dream.

Despite the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Black people would remain enslaved in parts of the Confederacy for nearly two and a half years. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, delivering news of the end of the Civil War and of slavery.

The message he conveyed that day was simple. General Order Number 3 declared that "... all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves ..."

The following year, the newly liberated people of Texas began celebrating Juneteenth as a celebration of answered prayers and new opportunities.

This tradition slowly spread throughout the country, eventually becoming a holiday or day of observance in 49 states and the District of Columbia. My home state of Rhode Island has observed Juneteenth since 2012.

While Juneteenth has been widely celebrated among African American communities since the end of the Civil War, the prominence of the holiday has grown significantly in recent years.

I am proud to have supported the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act when it passed in Congress and was signed into law last week. It is my hope that June 19th will serve as a day of reflection and an annual call to recommit ourselves to the American ideals of freedom and equality.

For far too long, our society has denied the promise of these ideals to many Americans.

From the Jim Crow era until today, Black Americans have been the target of racism and bigotry, treated as second class citizens, denied opportunity, and subjected to countless violent attacks by racist mobs and individuals.

Over the last year, the United States has experienced the most intensive reckoning with slavery and its legacy since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

The Black Lives Matter movement and nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd have cast a light on the disparate outcomes that persist for Black people in education, employment, interactions with the police, and numerous other aspects of everyday life.

These disparities contribute to—and are influenced by—the intergenerational racial wealth gap. Recent studies show that Black children face significantly higher rates of downward economic mobility and lower rates of upward mobility compared to white children.

For instance, a Black child born into a high-income family is as likely to end up in the bottom 20 percent of earners as an adult as they are to remain in top 20 percent. In contrast, a white child born to parents with the same income is five times more likely to remain in the top income quintile as they are to fall to the bottom of the income distribution.

The systemic racism ingrained in American society must come to an end. As Members of Congress, we need to face this challenge head on, with clear eyes, open minds, and full hearts. Making Juneteenth a national holiday is a start, but our constituents have shown us that sustained Congressional inaction is no longer an option.

This is the moment to pass comprehensive policing reform, protect and expand voting rights, and remove the vestiges of slavery from our social fabric for good.

In the last two years, the House has passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. The Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act was signed into law in December after passing both chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support.

This is the kind of legislation we need to begin unwinding the political, economic, and societal policies that have disadvantaged Black Americans since Reconstruction.

This Juneteenth, I hope my colleagues join me in reflecting on the myriad barriers to opportunity that exist for far too many Black Americans and in promoting concrete actions Congress can take to remove them.

#### CONGRESSIONAL LGBTQ+ EQUALITY CAUCUS IN COMMEMORATION OF PRIDE MONTH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as our country celebrates Pride Month this June, I rise as a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee to affirm a basic truth: that we are all equal.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. CICILLINE, and the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus for organizing this special order in commemoration of Pride Month.

This month serves as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to making equality in every aspect of American life real for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

It also serves as a reminder of both the shared struggle and collective joy found in the history and life experiences of queer and gender non-conforming members of our society.

Our country has come a long way in the fight for justice for all the queer and gender non-conforming members of our society.

The Stonewall Uprisings in Greenwich Village marked a watershed moment in the LGBTQ+ movement, reigniting the fight for justice and signaling a new chapter of progress in our country's quest to ensure that fair treatment is the rule, never the exception.

The Supreme Court's 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* enshrined fair treatment as the rule when the court affirmed same-sex couple's right to marry the person they love, regardless of where they lived.

Our country's commitment to justice has been maintained by the tireless work of advocates and communities at the forefront of social change.

We know, however, that this work is unfinished.

As with every social movement, progress is met by resistance, and that resistance can only be overcome with unmatched persistence and fidelity to a basic truth enshrined in our belief: that all are created equal and worthy of human dignity.

In keeping with this belief, we cannot forget the great champions of this cause, many of which I am proud to claim as fellow Texans.

Sarah Fernandez, Judy Reeves, Tommy Ross, JD Doyle, Dalton DeHeart, Judge Jerry Simoneux, Judge Fran Watson—I thank them for their unwavering advocacy.

I also want to recognize a few organizations that continue to do the hard and necessary work of keeping our communities safe, making them feel seen, and pushing our country towards equality.

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus, Save Our Sisters United, Montrose Grace Place, and the Montrose Center—their work is important and valued.

Lastly, I wish to pay tribute to Monica Roberts and Ray Hill.

Monica Roberts, whose death leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of the LGBTQ+ community in Houston.

Monica worked as a trailblazing journalist and advocate, never failing to center the stories of Black trans people and shining light on the issues often ignored by the media.

Ray Hill co-organized the first gay rights organization in Houston in 1967, fiercely advocated for those living with HIV and AIDS, and always sought to advance the cause of equality, despite the hardships.

There are more than 46,000 same-sex couples in Texas, and about a third of LGBTQ+ Texans are raising children.

According to an analysis by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, approximately 930,000 Texans identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer.

If LGBTQ+ Texans were a city unto themselves, they'd be the 5th most populous municipality in the state, just behind Austin, and significantly larger than El Paso.

These families and these individuals all benefit from the incredible advocacy and sacrifice of the aforementioned organizations and individuals.

From the Ryan White Care Act to the Matthew Sheppard Act passed by Congress to the *Lawrence v. Texas* and *Obergefell v. Hodges* decisions announced by the Supreme Court, it is clear that social change cannot simply be hoped for—it must be codified, protected, and expanded to account for the real discrimination still shouldered by the LGBTQ+ community.

In particular, I want to underscore the importance of intersectionality, and recognize that queer people of color face disproportionate burdens ranging from violence against transgender people to higher rates of youth homelessness and HIV infection.

On behalf of LGBTQ+ Texans and all Americans, I call upon the Senate to follow the House's example and pass H.R. 5, the Equality Act now.

I call on my colleagues in Congress to move forward with key legislative priorities ranging from ending HIV criminalization, passing the HIV epidemic plan, and enacting criminal justice reform that puts a stop to policies, which above all harm incarcerated transgender people.

For LGBTQ+ communities to be truly seen—to be valued—in our country, they must be accounted for in our policies and actions, not simply tokenized in political rhetoric and corporate merchandise.

It is time to go beyond political rhetoric and make real the promise of equality, opportunity, and justice for every American—irrespective of who they are and who they love.

Let us be unequivocal in our support and love for the LGBTQ+ community, not just in words, but in actions.

[From the Texas Tribune, April 20, 2021]

Updated: April 21, 2021]

TEXAS LAWMAKERS ADVANCE BILLS BLOCKING ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM LGBTQ+ TEXANS, MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

(By Megan Munce)

Equality Texas CEO Ricardo Martinez said Texas has filed more anti-LGBTQ bills this session than any other state legislature.

Before undergoing gender confirmation surgery at age 17, Indigo Giles had to get approval from a doctor, a therapist and the hospital where the surgery would be performed to ensure there were no options left besides surgery. To even get to that point, Indigo's father Neil said it took time-consuming research and several reflections as a family before going forward with the process.

The surgery's impact was immediate, said Indigo, now 19, who identifies as nonbinary. They were able to wear the clothes they wanted to, and their confidence in school and with friends significantly increased. Most significantly, the surgery helped alleviate their severe depression caused in part by gender dysphoria—discomfort related to feeling a disconnect between one's personal gender identity and the gender assigned to them at birth.

But under a slate of legislation moving in the Texas Senate and House, Indigo wouldn't have been able to make such a decision until their 18th birthday. In fact, no transgender child in Texas would be able to pursue puberty blockers, hormone treatment or surgery for the purpose of gender confirmation.

Transgender Texas children, their parents, medical groups and businesses have vocally opposed many of the bills lawmakers are pursuing. Equality Texas CEO Ricardo Martinez said Texas has filed more anti-LGBTQ bills this session than any other state legislature.

"It's insulting," Indigo said. "These lawmakers think that we don't know what we